

New Ho
seniors show
their Iron Bowl
spirit



INSIDE
ES students
create balloon
projects



INSIDE
Elba Lady Tigers
win basketball
season opener



The Elba Clipper

Volume 123, Number 28

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 5, 2019

1 Section, 10 Pages

Elba Council appoints three new board members for Elba Housing Authority

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council appointed three new people to the Elba Housing Authority board Monday night, Nov. 25, during the regular bimonthly meeting for the council.

The need for the appointments came to fruition following an announcement by three board members that they would each be resigning from the board, citing

person matters in each case according to Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock. The three resigning from the board included Sue Johnson, Kaye Ellis, and Donald Lawford. Lawford was serving as chairman of the board at the time of his resignation.

Upon the recommendation of Elba Housing Authority executive director Laurie Chapman, the council voted to appoint Tanya Cole to a 1-year term, Angie

Newby to a 2-year term, and Lynn Corder to a 5-year term. The appointments were effective immediately.

Also citing a resignation was Elba Police Lt. Russ Young as he provided an update from the police de-

partment to council members.

Young said the department had once again lost an officer to a neighboring agency. He said this officer had resigned from Elba to take a position with the

Covington County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Young did note that Covington County would have to reimburse Elba for funds spent to send this officer to the police academy. He said state law says an officer committed to an agency that sends him to the academy for two years, and if he leaves that agency before the two years are up the new agency has to reimburse the funds to the one that paid for the academy costs.

Lt. Young said an officer currently serving on a part-time status had shown interest in joining Elba's force full-time, and he would replace the officer leaving if that worked out.

Council members approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign a promissory note for the purpose of purchasing a garbage truck. Murdock said

the amount of the loan would be \$205,000 plus interest.

The council approved a motion for the city to submit application for the Rebuild Alabama Act Annual Grant Program Application [Fiscal Year 2020] for the City of Elba. The council decided, if approved for the funds, that Elba would use the monies to pave Simmons Street to Claxton Ave along with the school bus road [road between the high school and elementary school].

The estimated cost of this project is \$299,245. The grant funds being applied for are \$250,000, and the city and school system would pay the cost above that \$250,000 [if approved].

Before adjourning, the council agreed to hold both of the required meetings-December on the night of Monday, Dec. 9th.



Elba Police join Ministerial Alliance in sponsoring toy drive for children

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Officers with the Elba Police Department serve and protect on a daily basis, but this holiday season the department wants to do more to 'help' in the community, and Elba Police Chief Leslie Hussey said partnering with the local ministerial alliance to collect Christmas toys for children, as well as, gift cards for the elderly seemed like a great way to do just that.

The Elba Toy Story Holiday Toy Drive 4 Kids in currently underway, and it is sponsored in partnership by the Elba Police Department and the Elba Ministerial Alliance. New toys for children ages 6 months to 13 years are will be collected through Sunday, Dec. 15, at drop off locations throughout Elba.

The Elba Police Department, located on the square in downtown Elba, is a drop off spot for the toys. Additional drop off points include Elba City Hall, Troy Bank and Trust and the Elba Food Giant.

"We wanted to help col-

lect the toys for these youngsters and brighten their holiday season in some way," Chief Hussey said. "We are leaving it up to our local ministerial alliance to determine those in most need for the toys collected in this drive, and I am certain they will help put a smile on a child's face this Christmas."

Hussey asked anyone interested in helping make this project a success to please purchase a toy or more and drop those items off at the Elba Police Department [or any other drop off location] before the end of the day on Dec. 15th. He added that toys would still be taken for a few days after the 15th, but the collection boxes would be taken up after that date.

"We also are asking for gift cards for the elderly to bring comfort to our older citizens this holiday season as well," Chief Hussey said. "This is just a small way for us to help our community, and we hope you will con-

See DRIVE, Page 3



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING...On the countdown, Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock and his wife, Liz, lit the Elba Christmas tree Monday night, Dec. 2, in downtown Elba. The 25-ft city Christmas tree is located on the old Clement Lot in downtown Elba - now utilized as a community space. The tree serves as a great holiday photo opportunity for all. Above, the mayor and his wife celebrate the lighting of the tree after they pushed the lever and the lights came on illuminating the area.

Elba Ministerial Alliance to host Red Cross blood drive on Dec. 5th

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to be the lifeline for patients in need this holiday season by making an appointment to give blood.

While helping to save lives is likely motivation enough, those who come out to give Nov. 18-Dec. 18 will also receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Also, donors will get important health information by receiving a mini-health screening to help determine eligibility that includes blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin readings.

There will be a Red Cross blood drive Thursday, Dec. 5,

from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Elba Church of Christ, 715 N Troy Highway. This is sponsored by the Elba Ministerial Alliance.

Donations of all blood types are needed, but there is a critical need for type O blood donors.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, more than 1 million units of blood could be transfused in the United States. The Red Cross urges individuals to give a lifesaving gift this holiday season by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets and help ensure a sufficient supply is available for patients throughout the holiday season.

A special 'thank you' in Elba to local first responders...

Local first responders received a special 'thank you' Tuesday, Dec. 3, as they were the guests of honor for lunch at the Lake Realty offices in downtown Elba. This lunch was co-sponsored by Lake Realty, Southeast Insurance and Real Estate, and the Wiregrass Board of Realtors.

According to Lake Realty owner Kaye Ellis lunch was a "thanks [to the first responders] for being the first on the scene and the last to leave."

In the photo, right, Elba Police officers and Coffee County Sheriff's deputies were among those attending the gathering in their honor.



Area Happenings

COFFEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING will be held Monday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m., at 214 Factory Ave N, Elba, Ala.

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. There will be standby crews available to assist with any utility emergencies. For any utility emergency, report it to the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555 during this time. The garbage truck will run the normal schedule.



SANTA CLAUS CAME TO TOWN! The Elba Christmas Parade was held Monday night, Dec. 2, and serves as a kickoff to the holiday season in Elba. A much-anticipated moment each year for Elba's parade is the arrival of Santa Claus atop an Elba fire truck signifying the start to the Christmas season. This year did not disappoint as Santa made his way through the streets of Elba. Above, Santa waves to the crowd as he is showered in confetti on the square Monday night in downtown Elba. See more photos on Page 10.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to." — Mark Twain

Our granddaughter posted the following on Facebook during or following the finding of Aniah Blanchard's body after she was recently abducted from an Auburn, AL gas station. . . .

"I'm in shock. the same town. the same college. the same gas station. it could have easily been me. I'm in Auburn, I go to Southern Union, I go places alone, I am almost always in gas stations alone, and sometimes I go at night. It could have easily been me. but I get to wake up tomorrow in my bed down the hall from my mom. I get to have Thanksgiving with my family. I get to go back to school next week. and I got to walk away from the gas station alive... but it could have just as easily been me. my heart hurts for the Blanchard family, and my heart goes out to them. I pray they can eventually find closure and peace following this horrible event. #ripAniah"

Most of us have had a tragic event that impacted us more than others. This is hers, maybe her only, and hopefully she and the thousands of other women in like circumstances will be more cautious and alert because of it. Then Aniah's tragic kidnapping and killing will not be completely in vain.

The Alabama Pardons and Parole Board has clearly gotten the message that the political decision makers and ultimately the voters of Alabama don't take kindly to revolving door pardoning of convicted and sentenced criminals. They are denying the vast majority of those making those appearances before the Board. On Tuesday they denied 100% of those applying, citing them as violent repeat offenders. They have done that, or maybe close to it, on several other occasions since the governor revamped the pardons system with some strong words.

It 'tis the Christmas season . . . well almost. Thankfully back in our childhood it didn't start so early. If memory serves us well, and it does on this matter, the days just drub by as we anxiously anticipated the visit from the Jolly Old Saint Nick. It might have been listed as "Cause of Death" on our death certificate if our hype was extended — beginning before Thanksgiving.

The contractors have started work on the project to unify the look of the businesses around the Elba square. As we understand the aim of the project, you will not see a 'one size, color, etc.,' fits all but each building will have a different, but coordinated, look. That includes the awnings and the color of the building fronts. This is promoted as a way of enticing travelers to pause and visit — and maybe spend some money as they pass through town. Most of the merchants of Elba, and any other small town, will acknowledge this is sorely needed.

It shouldn't be long before motorists driving through town will have to dodge construction workers upgrading underground water lines. Then there are the approved plans to do a major upgrade on the Elba sewer system. Our experience is that this is the one that will really mess up the traffic patterns for a while. They dig deep holes and don't get the street resurfacing completed right away. All this should be patiently accepted as the price of progress!

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- **Second** - Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- **Third** - Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- **Fourth** - Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Compliments of
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TELEPHONE (334) 897-2823 or fax (334) 897-3434
e-mail clipper@troycable.net

John Ferrin Cox - PUBLISHER
Linda Hodge - EDITOR
Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

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Outside Alabama - \$27 per year - 6 months - \$15

What if we could be thankful every day instead of just one?

by Linda Hodge, Editor

On Thursday of last week, we all celebrated our 'thankfulness' in life.

Thanksgiving has been probably my most favorite holiday for many years... I think it goes back to the year I started cooking our family meal instead of my mom. She was into her time of having to go to dialysis and just was no longer able to do it.

I took on the challenge, knowing I would never match her talents in the kitchen. If you ever had the pleasure of eating food prepared by my mom, you know exactly what I mean with that statement.

As I recall, that first year, while she was in the middle of dialysis and Dad sat patiently in the waiting room on her, I was trying my best, but found some hiccups along the way. I remember a few frantic phone calls to aunts asking "what do I do?" or "how can I fix my mess-up" and they were gracious enough to talk me through it each time.

Fast forward to all these years later, and I still take it as my challenge to cook our Thanksgiving meal. There have been times when we would go eat with other family members on this special day, but mostly, the

Hodge three — Dad, Latisha and yours truly — have stayed home on this day enjoying the holiday together. The good news is... I seem to have gotten pretty darn good at cooking that Thanksgiving meal!

It warms my heart knowing I am honoring Mom's memory each Thanksgiving by cooking. It was most definitely her talent in life, and to even get close to creating a meal like hers is a dream come true for me.

I can't help but think that if she could see me on Thanksgiving Day that she would be super proud.

I guess that is really why I love Thanksgiving so much... because on that day, I feel a little closer to my Mom. I think fondly of her and I thank goodness that I paid enough attention when I was younger to be able to do it "like mom" when I am cooking for the family.

I say all that to lead into my next point...

Let's not be in such a hurry to get to Christmas that we forget about Thanksgiving. I love Christmas just as much as the next person — being able to celebrate our Savior's birth [the real and most important part of the holiday] while also enjoying the fun and magic of the season too — but, the commercial side of the holi-

day seems to be winning out as each year the decorations go on sale earlier and earlier, and the holiday movies start sooner and sooner.

Thanksgiving is important too, and it will not hurt for us to remember that. Some people seem to forget that 'thankfulness' the moment the day is over.

Latisha and I encountered a person that seemed to forget that 'thankfulness' quickly last week, or maybe he did not have it at all. Either way, I could not help but shake my head at him and wonder where his thankful nature had run away to on Saturday as he was literally out of his vehicle on the roadway in Dothan cussing another motorist after HE was the cause of the traffic issue in the first place. He had cut the other vehicle off as it was trying to properly change lanes but felt it important to call the other person all kinds of unthinkable names while telling them they were "Number One" with his middle finger.

We sat there behind the two vehicles in shock as we witnessed this moment of

road rage. I was embarrassed for him.

We live in a crazy, mean world these days. You cannot turn on the television news or look on social media without being reminded of that.

Maybe if we focus on doing nice things for one another instead of always being in a hurry to get things our way, we can bring a little joy to others on a daily basis.

Smile at someone. Open a door for another person. Say thank you to restaurant servers or store clerks. Give an unexpected gift.

Little acts of kindness may bring more joy to another person that you could ever imagine. And, it could bring thanksgiving home 365 days per year rather than just the last Thursday of November once per year.

It's just a thought anyways...

Share Your Views...

Write a Letter to
the Editor

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Monday, Nov. 25, and Sunday, Dec. 1, made the following arrests: one on warrants.

There were six traffic citations and 22 traffic warnings [verbal and written] issued by Elba Police officers during the timeframe of Nov. 25th — Dec. 1st.

MONDAY, NOV. 25 — Officers contacted a suspicious person on Jones Circle (12:27 a.m.); Officers responded to a call referencing a subject loitering at a business on Hick-

man Ave — the subject was advised to leave (4:07 p.m.); Officers responded to a loitering call at the Inland on E Davis St. (7:38 p.m.).

TUESDAY, NOV. 26 — Officers responded to a business on E Davis St in reference to someone finding paraphernalia — officers confiscated the paraphernalia and advice was given (10:02 a.m.).

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27 — Officers responded to suspicious activity in the area of Claxton Ave (1:04 a.m.); Officers responded to the area of Martin Luther King Dr in reference to street racing (4:19 p.m.); Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the area of Plant Ave and Putnam St (5:35 p.m.).

THURSDAY, NOV. 28 — Officers met with a complainant in the area of Powell Circle in reference to theft (1:43 p.m.).

FRIDAY, NOV. 29 — Officers were sent to Claxton Ave to locate the sound of possible gunshots (2:36 a.m.); Officers responded to the scene of a vehicle fire on Reese Ave (10:31 a.m.); Officers responded to a harassment complaint on Adkinson Ave (7:00 p.m.).

SATURDAY, NOV. 30 — Officers responded to a complaint of a person disrupting customers in the area of Dollar General — officers advised the subject was asked to leave the area (3:19 p.m.); Officers responded to a residence on Carolyn St in reference to a report of stolen property (11:58 p.m.).

SUNDAY, DEC. 1 — Officers responded to a possible burglary on Guyton St — determined it was not a burglary (1:23 a.m.); Officers responded to a possible prowler call on Guyton St (1:20 p.m.); Officers responded to a complaint of shots fired in the area of Carver Dr (5:02 p.m.); Officers contacted subjects getting disorderly on Jackson St (6:23 p.m.); Officers responded to a call of a bat in a residence on Sunset Blvd — the bat was captured and released with assistance from Elba Animal Control (10:30 p.m.).

Thanksgiving

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Obituaries

Death notices updated regularly on our website at <www.elba-clipper.com>



LBW Community College's nursing lab was the setting for an official signing ceremony to establish the Shirley Ann Watkins McWaters Memorial Scholarship Fund through the LBWCC Foundation. Recognizing the College where Mrs. McWaters completed training as a nurse after raising two sons and her 19-year career, the scholarship will benefit future nurses in the field of allied health services. Attending the event were, from left, LBWCC Acting President Bryan Helms; Mrs. McWaters' family members Rev. Hubert McWaters, husband, and Michael S. McWaters, son; LBWCC Foundation Vice President Mark Parker; and LBWCC Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement Dr. Arlene Davis.

DRIVE

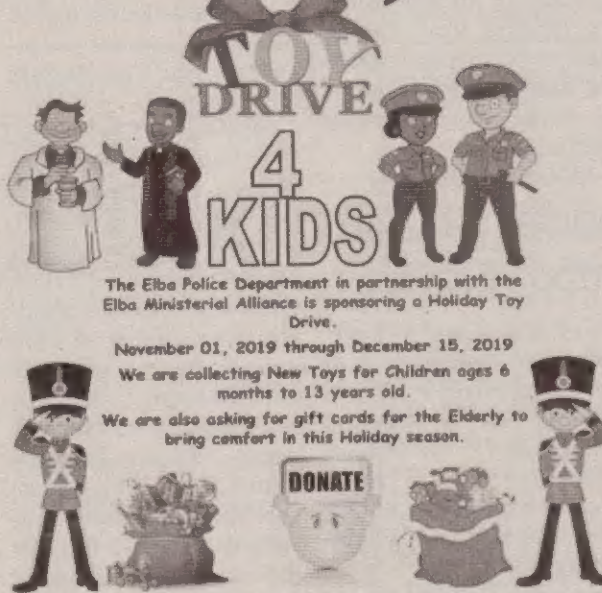
(Continued from Page One)

sider joining us in making the toy drive for children and gift cards for our elderly a huge success."

The gift cards for the elderly could help Elba's older citizens in need to purchase food, prescription medications, clothing, and more. The idea behind this project is to take a burden away from these seniors by providing a small gift [card] to them to let them know their community loves and cares for them. The gift cards also can be dropped off at the Elba Police Department.

Hussey said anyone with questions regarding these projects can contact Officer Summers at the Elba Police Department as she is heading up the project for his department.

ELBA TOY STORY Holiday



The Elba Police Department in partnership with the Elba Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive.

November 01, 2019 through December 15, 2019

We are collecting New Toys for Children ages 6 months to 13 years old.

We are also asking for gift cards for the Elderly to bring comfort in this Holiday season.

DONATE

BEULAH MAE JOHNSON

Mrs. Beulah Mae Johnson, age 92, of Enterprise, Ala., died recently at Enterprise Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, at St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

Mrs. Johnson was born March 22, 1927. She was preceded in death by her husband, John L. Johnson; children, Mary Frances Clark, Joseph Bill Frazier, Robert Lee Frazier, Gladys Townsend, and Linda Lee McRae; parents, Lige and Jessie McGee.

Survivors include her children: Ruby (LeRoy) Merriex, Willie Fred (Dean) Frazier, and Charlie C. Frazier, all of Enterprise, Marion Frazier and Romero Frazier, both of Montgomery, Ala.; 34 grandchildren, 64 great-grandchildren, 34 great-great-grandchildren; along with many friends and other relatives.

CALISTA MICHELE CROOK

Ms. Calista Michele "Cali" Crook, age 29, of Elba, Ala., died Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

Funeral services were held Nov. 29, 2019 at Wise Mill Assembly of God Church, Elba, with Minister Syble Randell officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Elba with Skeen Funeral Home of Troy directing.

Cali was preceded in death by her father, Randal Nelson Crook, grandparents, Jimmy and Johnnie Owens, Dr. Donald H. Crook and Bobbie Jo Anderson; aunt, Regina Kaye Rushing.

Survivors include her children: Andrew Colin Foley, Woodie Case Carter, and Lily Grace Crook, all of Elba; mother: Vickie Crook Brown, Elba; brother: Brandon Owens, Elba; sisters: Lacey Crook, Pennsylvania, Heather Brown, Elba; grandmother: Mary Flowers, Elba; aunts: Janet Grissett (Jerry), Elba, and Charla Velez (Randy), Bradenton, Fla.; uncle: Jeffrey Owens, Elba; along with several other aunts, uncles, a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

MIKE SID ODOM

Mr. Mike Sid Odom, age 64, of Enterprise, Ala., died Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, at his home in Enterprise.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba, Ala., with Rev. Larry Odom officiating. Burial followed in the Zoar Community Cemetery.

Ask Heath

Heath Wyrosdick, Funeral Director/Embalmer

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A major decision when it comes to death is burial or cremation. This impacts the planning process, how the body is handled, and funeral or memorial services. Talking to your family well in advance and putting the proper paperwork in place is an effective way of ensuring your wishes are carried out once you pass away.

First and foremost, it is your choice whether you are buried or cremated. However, you must make these wishes known in advance. A Health Care Directive is one way of doing so. Some people also choose to plan their funeral/memorial ahead of time so they have a say and it takes some of the burden off of family during a time of grief. If you have a preference, speak up and let your family know.

If you have not indicated burial or cremation ahead of time, the person you designate as your representative will make the choice. They are responsible for deciding what happens upon your death when other directives are not available. Keep in mind that a Durable Power of Attorney is not the same because their rights are terminated once you have passed away.

Finally, it comes down to your spouse. They will have the opportunity to choose on your behalf. If you do not have a surviving spouse, the decision will go to the next of kin. It is also important to remember that in some religions, such as Judaism, cremation is frowned upon.

Even if you are in perfect health now, it is still a good idea to have these difficult discussions with your family and let them know your preferences. Death is often unpredictable, so be prepared and put your decisions in writing so your family is not left wondering what you would have wanted.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at: hayesth@hayesfuneralhome.net

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Survivors include his sons: James (Kelly) Odom and Chris Odom, both of Elba; sisters: Barbara Odom, Opp, Ala., Linda Powell, Enterprise, Betty (Donnie) Flowers, Deborah (L.C.) Cook, Tammy (Dennis) Ballard, and Mary Stokes, all of Elba; brothers: Larry (Cathy) Odom, Elba, Kenny Odom and Dennis Odom, both of New Brockton, David (Bonnie) Odom, Andalusia, Ala.; and six grandchildren.

MINNIE HESTER JOHNSON

Mrs. Minnie Hester Johnson, age 97, a resident of Glenwood, Ala., died Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, peacefully at her home.

Graveside services were held Nov. 27, 2019 at the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery under the direction of Hayes Funeral Home of Elba. Those wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to do so to the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o George King, 4625 County Road 215, Jack, AL 36346.

Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by her husband, James Garfield Johnson, along with her parents, Myrtle Flowers Hester and Joe Cephus Hester.

Survivors include her son: J.C. (Patty) Johnson, Ozark, Ala.; daughters:

Estin (Larry) Baker, Glenwood and Shirley (Mac) Stagner, Tallassee, Ala.; along with six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

NATHANIEL KEMMERLIN

Mr. Nathaniel Kemmerlin, age 50, of Enterprise, Ala., died Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019, in Flowers Hospital of Dothan.

Funeral services were held Nov. 24, 2019 at St. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Geneva, Ala., with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

Nathaniel "Peter" Kemmerlin was born in Geneva on Nov. 29, 1968. He graduated from Geneva High School in 1988 and attended Enterprise State Junior College for two years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Nathaniel Kemmerlin; mother, Mary Lee Bryant; grandfather, James F. Bryant Sr.; grandmother, Jimmy Lee Bryant; and uncle, Melvin Bryant.

Survivors include his wife: Patricia; along with Rashad Sistrunk, Pamela D. Morgan, Maurice O. Kemmerlin, Robert B. Cox, aunt Nellie Purnell; uncle James F. Bryant Jr.; nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

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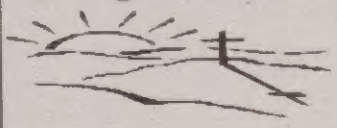


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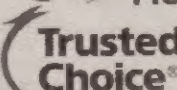
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CHURCH NEWS

Pastor's Corner

BY PHILIP BOX, MINISTER
ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ready for Christmas?

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2 NIV)

It seems like everywhere you go during the month of December, it really started in October or November this year when the Christmas movies started their 24/7 run, people ask the same question. At the checkout counter - "Are you ready for Christmas?" At the bank drive through window - "Are you ready for Christmas?" At the doctor's office - "Are you ready for Christmas?" At the church services - "Are you ready for Christmas?"

I think the answer to that question depends on how you define "ready."

Let me ask you this question: "Are you ready for Jesus?" Now that puts the idea of being ready in a completely different Christmas light, doesn't it? John the Baptist was sent by God to get the people ready to meet Jesus. Here's what Matthew had to say about him:

In those days, John the Baptist came preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight paths for him.'" "People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River" (Matthew 3:1-3 & 5-6).

We don't like the words "repent" or "repentance" very much. They mean "to make a radical change in our life, to turn and go in the opposite direction from sin (another word we're not too fond of today)". Repentance involves an element of grief over the way we have lived apart from God and a decision to run toward the Father. That was God's idea of the way to prepare for Christ's arrival in the book of Matthew, and it is still God's idea of preparing to be with Him today. Now that's what I call getting ready!

Let's reflect for a moment on the words to this poem and then answer the question, "Are you ready for Christmas?"

"Ready for Christmas," she said with a sigh As she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high... Then wearily sat for a moment AND READ Til soon, very soon, she was nodding her head. Then quietly spoke a voice in her dream, "Ready for Christmas, what do you mean?" She woke with a start and a cry of despair. "There's so little time and I've still to prepare. Oh, Father! Forgive me, I see what You mean! Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree. It's the heart swept clean that He wanted to see, A heart that is free from bitterness and sin. So be ready for Christmas - and ready for Him.

Now It's Your Turn

What do you think it means to be ready for Jesus?

Go back and read the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Notice the difference between the five who were ready and the five who were not. Which group more resembles your readiness for Christ? Once you have truffle answered the question do whatever you need to do to be ready! Faithfully Obey God's plan of readiness!

The Elba Ministerial Alliance will host an

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, Dec. 5, from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
at the Elba Church of Christ, 715 N Troy Highway

CCBA planning Dec. 9th Christmas Party for Never Alone Widow's Ministry

A Christmas Party, hosted by the Coffee County Baptist Association's Never Alone Widow's Ministry Committee, will be held Monday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Coffee Baptist Association Office, located at 603 E. McKinnon Street, New Brockton, Ala.

As usual, an open invitation is issued to those interested in attending. Those joining the party goers are urged to bring finger foods to share and a \$5 gift to play Dirty Santa.

Call 334-894-6411 to RSVP or for more information.

Christmas Concert set for Dec. 8th at Damascus Baptist

The Troy Burns Family will be featured in the Southern Gospel Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m., at Damascus Baptist Church, 774 County Road 547, Elba.

Call 894-6382 for more information.

Wreaths Across America event set for Dec. 14th at Bethlehem Baptist Church

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 518 County Rd 421, Elba, will be holding its 2nd Wreaths Across America and Alabama 200th Birthday on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m.

The service will begin with a prayer, and the wreaths then will be placed on the gravesite of each military person recognized. Hosting the event with Bethlehem Baptist Church are Bethne Cowen and Cathy Odom, patriotic activities leader for the Gen.

Edmond Winchester Rucker Chapter 2534, and other members.

For more information, call Odom at 897-6298.

Anyone wishing to purchase a wreath for a family member can mail their \$15 check to: Bethlehem Church, c/o Cathy Odom, 668 County Rd. 439, Elba, AL 36323. The checks need to be received [with the name information of the military serviceman] by Dec. 2nd.

All are welcome.

Elba United Methodist Church announces December services

Elba First United Methodist Church pastor Steve Reneau has released the schedule of special services planned for all Christians during the December Christmas season.

The messages stress Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. All these events take place in the Church sanctuary. Remaining services include:

December 8th at 10 a.m. - Christmas Musical - Peace

December 15th at 10 a.m. - Who are Mary and Joseph?

- Joy

December 22nd at 10 a.m. -

Who is Jesus Christ? - Love

December 22nd at 5 p.m. - The Longest Night - If you find this season difficult, then join us for this worship experience

December 24th at 5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Basin Baptist Church to present Christmas programs on Dec. 15

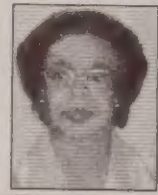
Basin Baptist Church, located on Hwy 189 S, Elba, will present two Christmas programs Sunday, Dec. 15th.

At 11 a.m., the adult choir will present its Christmas Cantata program, and at 5:30 p.m., the children's choir will present its musical play.

All are invited to attend these special services.

Round and About

With Eria's Daughter
897-3611



Scripture: Promised Faithfulness to the Lord. Psalm 101: 1-8

Thinking of You! Praying for You.

Mamie Belcher, Single Parents, Nicole Duncan, Betty Moore, Corene Daniels, Theresa Irizarry, Lydia M. Kelley, Orangib White

It is natural for us to want others to know who our children are. We claim our kids.

In a sense, that is what God did at the Baptism of Jesus Christ. No longer did people think of Jesus as merely "Joseph and Mary's boy." On that day God publicly laid claim on His Son. From that day on, the life of Jesus Christ took on a new dimension in the eyes of the world.

In a very similar fashion, when we recognize God's claim on our lives we are forever different. When we grasp that we have a heavenly Father who loves us and cares for us more than any earthly parent can, our lives are positively transformed.

Isn't it great to be a child of the King?

Question / Answer Section Q/A for the Week of 11/28/19

Q: Who is like a city broken into, left without walls?

A: On who lacks self-control is like a city breached, without walls. [read Proverbs 25:8]

Q: How do fools respond to an insult?

A: They show their anger at once. [read Proverbs 12:16]

Q: How do the prudent respond to an insult?

A: They ignore an insult. [read Proverbs 12:16]

Thought to Remember

Jesus loves me, this I know

Questions for the Week of 12/5/19

Q: According to Proverbs 28:7, who shames their parents?

Q: In Proverbs 28:8, the sage warns about the impermanence of wealth. Where does Jesus teach a similar message?

Today is a good day! Be grateful.

Eria's Daughter, Sue

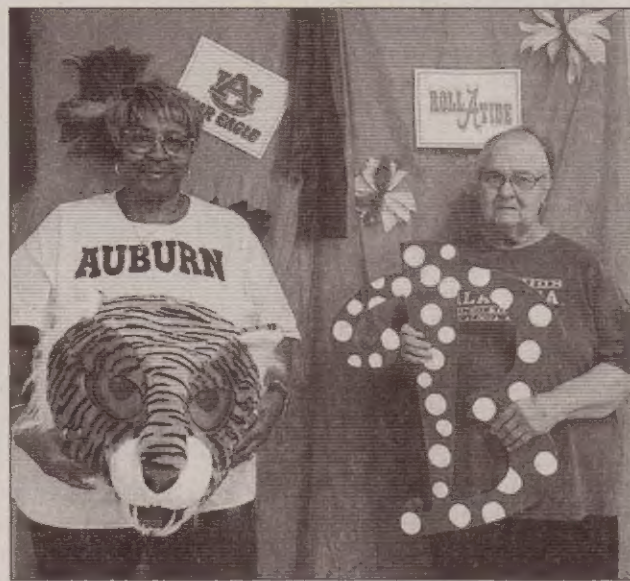
Church Directory

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| ABUNDANT GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH Rocky Pearce, Pastor Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. | ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH SAMSON, Ala. Richard Thorn Sr., Pastor Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m. Wed. Night Service... 7:00 p.m. | ALBERTSON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 7:00 p.m. | BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH Sam Self, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 6:30 p.m. | BETHLEAM CHURCH Rev. Deborah A. Butler, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m. | BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m. Wed. Bible Class... 6:30 p.m. | BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH Greg Cotter, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Disciple Train... 5:30 p.m. Even. Service... 6:30 p.m. | BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH Tom Senn, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 6:30 p.m. | BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH Robert Davis, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. | CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST Rev. Remona Smith Church Service... 9:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays | CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Larry Mills, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship... 11:00 a.m. Wed. Night... 7:00 p.m. | COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH Diana White, Pastor Bible Study... 9:00 a.m. Fellowship... 9:45 a.m. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Wed. Night (Youth Real Deal and Children's Activities)... 6:00 p.m. | DAMASCUS BAPT. CHURCH Steve Watson, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 7:00 p.m. | DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH Dale Morgan, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Discipleship Training... 5:00 p.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m. | EANON BAPTIST CHURCH Mark Ward, Pastor Sunday School... 10:30 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:15 p.m. | ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Phillip Box, Minister Bible Study... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:30 p.m. | ELBA CHURCH OF GOD David Noble, Pastor Morn. Worship... 10:45 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. | ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY H.L. Beckner, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Sunday Night... 6:00 p.m. Thur. Night... 7:00 p.m. | ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m. | ELBA 1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD Dwight Johnson, Pastor Sunday School... 9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m. | ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Tom Anderson, Interim Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m. | ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Steve Reneau, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m. | ELBA ZION BAPT. CHURCH Lionel Martin, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. | HEBRON BAPT. CHURCH Mark Cooper, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:30 p.m. Wed. Even. Meeting... 7:00 p.m. | INO ASSEMBLY OF GOD Wesley D. Ard, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting... 6:30 p.m. | INO BAPTIST CHURCH Garry Winstead, Pastor Sunday School... 8:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting... 7:00 p.m. | JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD Matthew Morris, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 7:15 p.m. | KINSTON 1st BAPT CHURCH Ben Posey, Pastor Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. | LIVING WORD CHURCH Derrick Stinson, Pastor Saturday Service... 9:45 a.m. Sunday School... 10:30 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Youth Service... 6:00 p.m. Thurs. Service... 6:00 p.m. | LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST Greg Hanchey, Minister Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. | LOVE'S WAY CHURCH Charles Jones, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m. | MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH J. R. Parks, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays | MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH Dewey Emfinger, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 5:00 p.m. | MT. OLIVE BAPT. CHURCH Olan Strickland, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting... 7:00 p.m. | MT. VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. | NEW BROCKTON METHODIST Dr. Craig Bailey, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:30 p.m. | NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH Randall Pearson, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m. | NEW GLORIOUS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST James Starks Jr., Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Bible Study... 5:00 p.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m. | NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m. | NEW HOPE BAPT CHURCH Lanny Shepard, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 6:30 p.m. | NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST Lorelei Flowers, Minister Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays | OAK GROVE BAPT. CHURCH Julian Mitchell, Pastor 1st, 4th Sun. Morn. Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. | OLD TABERNACLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Lee Jones, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. | PERDUE ASSEMBLY OF GOD OF GOD IN CHRIST ENTERPRISE W. K. Ellison, Pastor Morning Worship... 9:00 a.m. Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening... 7:00 p.m. Friday Evening... 7:00 p.m. | PINEY GROVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD - SAMSON Terry McCrummen, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m. | PRATHE & GLORY WORSHIP CENTER Roy L. Turner, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m. | ROCKY HEAD M.B. CHURCH A. R. Williams, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays | ROETON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m. | SHADY GROVE A.M.E. CHURCH James Bosta, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Praise Service Mon 5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m. | SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m. | TAYLOR HILL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Wed. Night Service... 5:00 p.m. | THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST Pastor Bishop E.J. Hill Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Noon Worship... 12:00 p.m. Even. Service... 7:00 p.m. Youth Ser. Mon... 4:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Class... 7:00 p.m. Fri. Missionary Ser... 7:00 p.m. | THE WAY OF HOLINESS CHURCH, Elba Max Reed, Minister Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m. | TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH C.E. Davis, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service... 6:00 p.m. | VANDERBILT HOLINESS CHURCH Donald Mills, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service... 6:00 p.m. | VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH Shagene Allen, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:45 p.m. Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m. | VICTORY TABERNACLE Ruby Lawson, Pastor Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m. | WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Ken Wilson, Pastor Sunday School... 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m. | WHITEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m. | WISE MILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Kenneth Hagler, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service... 7:00 p.m. | WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Donnie Marler, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m. | WOOTEN CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH Mike Medley, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 5:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m. | ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Cary Maulden, Pastor Sunday School... 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. | ZOAR COMMUNITY CHURCH John Isaacs, Pastor Sunday School... 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m. Even. Service... 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m. |
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LIFESTYLES



Emma Griffin shows off her Auburn Tiger PRIDE!



New Hope seniors showed off Iron Bowl allegiance last week

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, the seniors at the New Hope Senior Citizens Center showed their 'team spirit' in preparation for the Auburn-Alabama Iron Bowl game. Finger foods were served for this event. Special thanks to Mienundra Banks and Destene Cole for volunteering to serve at this event.

The seniors enjoyed cheering War Eagle and Roll Tide! The Tide fans outnumbered the Auburn fans, but senior center director Conzuella Banks would not give up cheering for her team as she said, "WAR EAGLE!!!"

Above, Pensy Brown and Julia Hornsby shows a house divided can still remain friends!



Altrusa of Jack invites youngsters to Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7th

Altrusa International of Jack, Alabama will host Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at Hebron Baptist Church, located at 3347 County Road 308, Jack, Ala.

It will be \$5 per person

and include a pancake and sausage breakfast, activities for the children, and Santa's sweet shop. Also, Moseley's Studios will be on site taking photos.

For more information, contact Britley Parker at (334) 300-6974.

New Dean of Students named for ESCC

In the Spring 2020 semester, Kassie Mathis will join Enterprise State Community College as its new Dean of Students.

As Dean of Students, Mathis will serve as the chief student affairs officer and will be responsible for the overall leadership of student services and facilities. At ESCC, the Dean of Students provides leadership, management, and supervision of a comprehensive Student Services Division including: recruitment, admissions, financial aid, registration and records, advising services, testing programs, orientation, student support services, career services, an intercollegiate athletic program, intramurals and student activities program in accordance with appropriate laws, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Mathis has over 12 years of higher education experience. She has served as the Director of Adult Education at Jefferson State Community College for the past year. She previously served as the HBCU Title III Program Director, Career Coach and Adjunct Instructor at Gadsden State Community College.

President Matt Rodgers said Mathis's experience



Kassie Mathis has been named the Dean of Students at ESCC

gives her a diverse background in higher education. "Throughout the interview process, Ms. Mathis's qualities, expertise and love for students stood out," Rodgers said. "We feel that these attributes, along with her background and leadership abilities, will be great additions to the ESCC/AAC team."

"I am confident that Ms. Mathis will bring a strong work ethic and hit the ground running. We already have a strong team in place, and I am excited about her experience and how she can help us continue to improve."

Mathis's first day will be Jan. 13, 2020, the first day of classes of the Spring 2020 semester at ESCC. She said she is excited to work at ESCC, a college that focuses on the needs of its students.

"I am both honored and humbled to have been selected as Dean of Students at Enterprise State Community College," she said. "I'm particularly thrilled about the welcoming and student centric environment. Throughout my career, my goal has always been to have a positive impact on students, and I believe ESCC is a place where I can do that."

"The recent growth of the college is indicative of an institution that is thriving and employing the right strategies to help students be successful. While I hope to create even more opportunities for growth, I'm also excited about continuing the outstanding work that's already been done. The amount of encouragement and support I've already received from President Matt Rodgers and the Enterprise State faculty and staff has been very reassuring, and I can't wait to get started."

All local seniors citizens invited to Dec. 12th Christmas Party at Pine Level Senior Center

The Pine Level Senior Citizens Center invites all to seniors to attend a Christmas Party to be held Thursday, Dec. 12, at the center.

Games and Christmas Carols will begin at 9 a.m., and lunch will be at 11 a.m. Anyone age 60 and older is

welcome.

The Pine Level Senior Citizens Center is located at 63 County Road 355, Elba [in the Pine Level Community]. Debbie Pearce is the center's director.

For more information, call 897-2621.

Seniors age 60 and older encouraged to join fun at Elba Senior Citizens Center

The Elba Senior Citizens Center encourages all seniors - age 60 and older - to join the center for lots of fun, activities and more.

Along with nutritious meals 5-days-per-week, the director works with seniors to help them apply for several programs they may qualify for, including: Farmers Market Vouchers, HRDC- Energy Assistance, Food Assistance, Medicaid Waiver, Senior Rx Program, Medicare Savings Program, etc. A senior must be an active participant at the Elba Senior center for the director to sign up for programs that they may qualify for to receive assistance.

To become a center participant, attendance is not based on income. This is a social place to come have fun and find or make new friends. If interested in joining the center, stop by or call 897-3019. The Elba Senior Citizens Center is located at 304 N. Factory Ave., Elba. Also, seniors age 60 and older that cannot come to the center may qualify for meals being brought to home. Contact Donna Falls, Elba Senior Center director, for more information.

Coffee with Veterans Dec. 5th at ESCC

Enterprise State Community College is holding its next installment of Coffee with Veterans on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 a.m., in the multipurpose room on the ESCC campus.

ESCC student and veteran Jettadia Bush will be the guest speaker for this event.

Bush is a 2006 graduate of Zion Chapel High School and a soon-to-be Fall 2019 graduate of Enterprise State Community College. Shortly after high school, he joined the Army as a 15-T UH-60 Helicopter mechanic. He was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska, and served as a Dustoff crew chief and standardization instructor.

Bush has served multiple deployments in Kandahar and Afghanistan, including stints at FOB Pasab, FOB Wilson and FOB Dwyer. He



Jettadia Bush

has been able to travel the world as a trainer for other Blackhawk crews and other allied countries service personnel.

Bush plans to transfer to Troy University Spring 2020 and complete his degree to teach history and to become a high school football coach.



LBW Community College in Opp recently welcomed high school seniors from 11 area schools to the MacArthur Campus for College 101, a program designed to help in the process of deciding the next step in their educational career. While on campus, they enjoyed a lively performance by the LBWCC Ensemble, toured campus, met advisors and faculty, learned about financial aid and how to get involved on campus, and rotated through four sessions presented by career technical faculty. Pictured from Zion Chapel High School are, front row from left, Hunter Odom, Ashton Cowart, Renée Boots, Ty Smith, Jeremy Arnold, Charley Parrish, Haley Parrish; back row, Brandon Woods, Carl Loomis, Brandon Latham, and Alexis Cobb.

Lifestyles News is Due on Monday each week!

REMINDERS FROM THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION:

Coffee County Environmental Services officials have announced that during the week of Christmas the normal Wednesday route will shift to Thursday [Dec. 26], and the Thursday route will shift to Friday [Dec. 27] with no pickups on Christmas Day, Dec. 25th.

The Coffee County Commission will next meet Monday, Dec. 9, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8

ELBA Housing Authority

1207 North Claxton Avenue • Elba, AL 36323
(334) 897-2737 • www.elbahousing.org

The Elba Housing Authority does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, sex, perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, familial status, or disability. The Elba Housing Authority has handicapped accessible units.

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All applications should be submitted to City Hall.

EOE

PUBLIC NOTICES:

Elba Clipper Public Notices are posted on the websites: www.elba-clipper.com and www.alabamapublicnotices.com at no extra charge**TERESA JONES CRAWFORD,** PLAINTIFF, VS. **JAMES EDWARD CRAWFORD,** DEFENDANT.IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIVIL ACTION NO: DR-2019-900035

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

To: JAMES EDWARD CRAWFORD.

You are hereby notified that a Complaint for Divorce has been filed in the Circuit Court of Coffee County, Alabama (Elba Division) against you and you are required to appear and plead to or answer the same within (30) days of the last publication, which will be the 5th day of December 2019, or thereafter a default may be rendered against you.

This the 22 day of October 2019.

/s/ Amy L. Reeves
Amy Reeves, Circuit ClerkCoffee County, Alabama
11/14,21,28&12/5-chg.
IN THE MATTER OF RONALD KEITH CULVER, Deceased.IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA
CASE NO: PC2019-093

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the HILDA CULVER ALLEN on the 22nd day of November 2019 by the Honorable Judge Steven E. Blair, Judge of Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Witness my hand this the 22nd day of November 2019.

/s/ Steven E Blair

Probate Judge
11/28,12/5&12-pd.

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that Catrett Construction, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Improvement of Modernization of Public Housing Sites AL149-1, XII and AL149-2, IX CFP Modernization Number: AL09-P149-501-15 at New Brockton for the Housing Authority of the Town of New Brockton, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract.

All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify The Architectural Office of William J. Peek, 908 S. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Catrett Construction, Inc.
P O Box 125
Opp, AL 36467
12/5,12,19&26-chg.

LBW Community College in Opp recently welcomed high school seniors from 11 area schools to the MacArthur Campus for College 101, a program designed to help in the process of deciding the next step in their educational career. While on campus, they enjoyed a lively performance by the LBWCC Ensemble, toured campus, met advisors and faculty, learned about financial aid and how to get involved on campus, and rotated through four sessions presented by career technical faculty. Pictured above Brantley High School are, from left, Blake Carlisle, Dandré Owens, Jania Sankey, Tannika Daniels, and Za Burnett.



LBW Community College in Opp recently welcomed high school seniors from 11 area schools to the MacArthur Campus for College 101, a program designed to help in the process of deciding the next step in their educational career. While on campus, they enjoyed a lively performance by the LBWCC Ensemble, toured campus, met advisors and faculty, learned about financial aid and how to get involved on campus, and rotated through four sessions presented by career technical faculty. Pictured above Kinston High School are, from left, Spencer Fleming, Kennedy Fleming, Emily Adams, and Bonnie Mitchell.



LBW Community College in Opp recently welcomed high school seniors from 11 area schools to the MacArthur Campus for College 101, a program designed to help in the process of deciding the next step in their educational career. While on campus, they enjoyed a lively performance by the LBWCC Ensemble, toured campus, met advisors and faculty, learned about financial aid and how to get involved on campus, and rotated through four sessions presented by career technical faculty. Pictured above New Brockton High School are, from left, Nichole Blaydes, Angel Harrison, Paula McKenna, and Jayle Teel.

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SCHOOL NEWS

TIGER
TALESNews from
Elba City SchoolsELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
"STUDENT OF THE WEEK"

The Elba Elementary School's 'Student of the Week' is Jayse Williams.

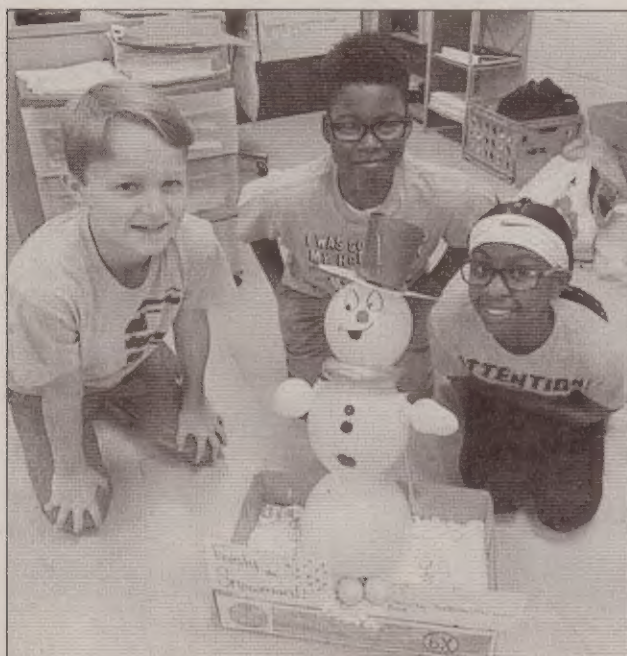
Jayse is the son of La-Shawnda Whitfield and Jarvis Williams, and his favorite subject at school is math. He said he enjoys being with all his friends when at school.

Jayse's favorite food is chicken nuggets. His favorite thing to do away from school is play games.

Congrats to Jayse Williams on being selected the Student of the Week for Elba Elementary.



Jayse Williams



5th and 6th graders at EES created balloon projects prior to Thanksgiving

Mrs. Leah Wicker's 5th and 6th grade students learned how the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade came to be by reading "Balloons Over Broadway."

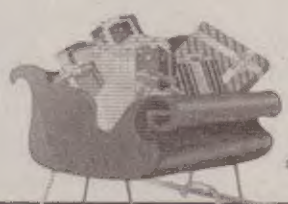
After reading the book, the students formed groups and created their own balloons and/or floats! Fun times were had by all with this pre-Thanksgiving holiday project.

Elba High School
December 2019Wynn Grimes, Principal
Jason Tucker, Assistant Principal

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 1 | 2 CHRISTMAS PARADE | 3 Band Christmas at 6:00 PM | 4 | 5 New Brockton at Elba at 4:30 PM | 6 ESCC Girls Basketball Tournament | 7 |
| 8 Honor Band Auditions at New Brockton ESCC Tournament Concludes | 9 | 10 Choir Christmas at 6:00 PM | 11 Retired Teachers Tea 9AM at Central Office CCYLP Session 4 | 12 Elba at Geneva at 4:30 PM | 13 Christmas Breakfast Treats In The Conference Room Brantley Girls Basketball Tournament Elba B-Team Basketball Tournament | 14 ACT |
| 15 Elba at Zion Chapel at 4:30 PM | 16 Semester Exams 3rd-5th Blocks | 17 Semester Exams 1st-2nd Blocks School Dismisses at 11:30 AM | 18 Teacher Inservice | 19 | 20 Slocumb Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Red Level Girls Basketball Tournament | 28 |



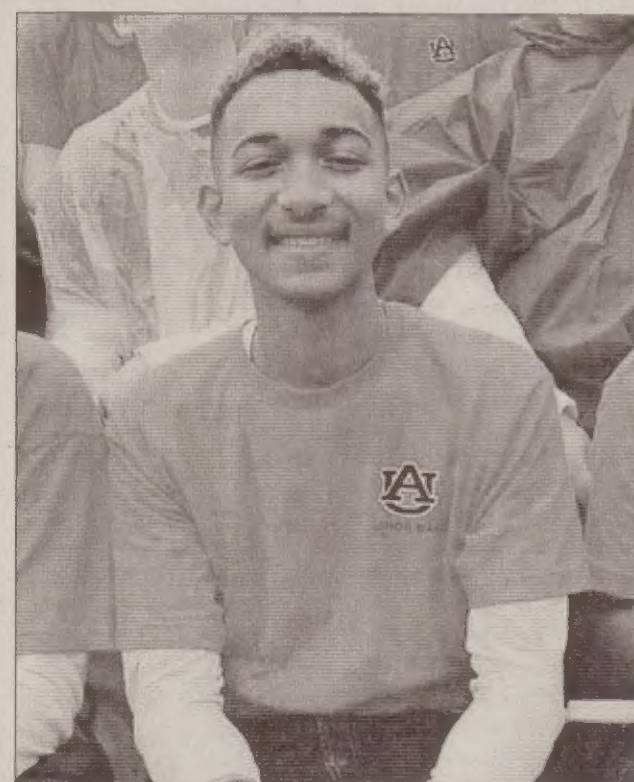
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Elba Elementary
December 2019Debra Strickland, Principal
Jason Tucker, Assistant Principal

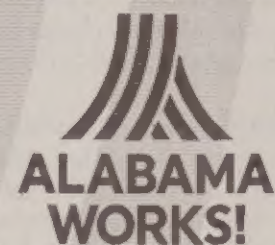
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 CHRISTMAS PARADE | 3 Band Christmas at 6:00 PM | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Girl Scouts Choir Christmas at 6:00 PM | 11 Retired Teachers Tea 9AM at Central Office Santa Pictures | 12 PTO Meeting at 5:30 PM 1st Grade Performance Limo Ride to Mellow Mushroom | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 School Dismisses at 11:30 AM | 18 Teacher Inservice | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Limo Ride to Mellow Mushroom | 28 |



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ELBA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT KYLE MITCHELL represented his school and band the weekend of Nov. 23rd at Auburn University participating in the Auburn University Marching Honor Band. He is shown here during the Auburn vs Samford football game. Kyle reportedly had a great time and enjoyed experiencing what it is like being a part of a collegiate band program.



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SPORTS NEWS

Views From
The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our grandson Lawson is still not excited about Christmas, but will drop a hint every now and then about what he would like from Santa, and the newest gift is a bicycle that he can leave at the lake. My little man hasn't been much of a bike rider over the years, but if he wants one and promises to ride while his granddaddy walks, we may just give Santa the hint.

For what it is worth....

*** **Elba Lady Tigers**.... The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Straughn Thanksgiving Tournament last week and for the second straight year brought home the second place trophy. The Lady Tigers were impressive in their opening win over Georgiana, but went over twelve minutes without a basket in the loss to Straughn and never caught up. If the Lady Tigers can develop some depth off the bench and play with intensity for all four quarters every night they could just surprise some folks this season.

*** **Elba basketball schedule**.... I took a look at the Elba High basketball schedule last week and was disappointed that the Tigers play only six home games the entire season. Teams are allowed to play a total of 30 games during the regular season, but the Tigers have only 15 games and one tournament on their schedule, while the Lady Tigers play 15 regular season games, but do compete in five tournaments. I would like for the Tigers to give the Elba fans more chances to visit the beautiful Tiger gym and watch them play at home, instead of having to drive and pay another school to watch 'em play.

*** **Enterprise School Board**.... The Enterprise Board of Education voted last week to allow its superintendent to negotiate with other schools to bring more home football games to its campus. The school officials agreed it would save thousands of dollars to play at home instead of having to transport the team and band to road games, and will now offer non-region opponents a cash incentive to play at Wildcat Stadium. Last season the school paid a team from Miami \$6,000 to come to Enterprise, and the gate and funds from concessions totaled over \$30,000. It was reported the school officials would like to play either six or possibly seven home games each season, and is willing to pay. Hey, it looks like football is big money even at the high school level.

*** **Alex Wright making news**.... Former Elba Tiger standout Alex Wright has enjoyed a banner freshman season at UAB and with the regular season now over it looks like the Blazer linebacker could soon garner conference honors. Wright, who going into last week's game had recorded 20 tackles, 8 tackles for losses, 4 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries with 42 yards in returns, and 1 forced fumble, is considered a favorite to win "Freshman of the Year" on honors on defense in Conference USA. Wright was also a basketball star at Elba High and many thought he should have chosen basketball in college, but he has made a name for himself as a freshman and he has three years to get even better.

*** **A new Coach Carnley**.... The Northridge Lady Jaguars placed second at a prestigious girls basketball tournament last week in Tuscaloosa and leading the team to the runner up finish was Coach Jake Carnley. Carnley, a former Elba Tiger standout and son of Elba junior high coach Leroy Carnley, has his team off to a fast 6-2 start and has his team in the 6A rankings.

*** **State football playoffs**.... The state high school football playoffs reached the elite eight last week and now have set the table for this week's state finals. In 7A, it will be a rematch between Central of Phenix City and Thompson, while in 6A Spanish Fort, which posted a 5-4 regular season record that included a forfeit win, advanced to the state finals as a #4 seed and won three of its four playoff games by seven points or less. In the 5A ranks, Central Clay County posted a 27-0 win over Mortimer Jordan for its 12th win and is looking to repeat as state champ after winning all four playoff games by an average of 25 points. In 4A, UMS-Wright got past Andalusia for the third straight year in semifinal action and will carry a 32-game winning streak

into the title game looking for a rare 3-peat. In 3A, Mobile Christian outscored T.R. Miller 41-21 to make the finals for the second time in four years, and former Kinston Bulldog coach Ronnie Cottrell has led his team to six straight wins and has averaged 43 points per game in the title push. In 2A, Reeltown surprised Leroy 29-28 in overtime to get back in the finals as the Rebels look to add a state title for the first time in ten years. In 1A, Lanett scored late to get past Sweet Water 42-35 to make it to the state finals for the second time in three years, and in the win overcame having three touchdowns wiped off by penalty flags.

*** **The road to the finals**.... I guess you could say the road to the state finals in high school football goes through Elba High. Since the Tigers placed runner up back in 2014 and won the 2A title in 2015, all four teams that knocked the Tigers out of the playoffs have advanced to compete in the state finals. The list includes Aliceville in 2016, Leroy in 2017, Linden in 2018 and Lanett in 2019. While none of the teams have gone on to claim a state title, their path to the finals did go through Elba.

*** **What?!**.... A late rally by Ole Miss fell one

point short last week against in-state rival Mississippi State when the Rebel extra-point kicker missed a 35-yard extra-point try after a 15-yard penalty against the Rebels when a receiver imitated a dog peeing after scoring a late touchdown. Team officials apologized for the actions and stated it did not represent the school, but the same thing happened just two years ago in a win over Mississippi State when another Rebel receiver did the same thing after a score. Seems to me the inmates are running the asylum over in Oxford.

*** **Polish Prognosticator**.... Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator stopped by over the weekend and after bashing Alabama and its lack of defense, did find time to hand over this week's playoff picks. The local guesspert hit on 10 of his 12 picks last week to move his season totals to 329-81, and left this week's fearless forecast. Here goes.... (7A) Central 41 Thompson 21, (6A) Oxford 35 Spanish Fort 17, (5A) Central Clay 21 Pleasant Grove 20, (4A) UMS-Wright 24 Jacksonville 21, (3A) Piedmont 34 Mobile Christian 27, (2A) Fyffe 21 Reeltown 14, (1A) Lanett 36 Mars Hill 35.

Outscore Georgiana 55-48

Elba Lady Tigers win season opener

The Elba Lady Tigers rallied from an 11-point second quarter deficit to post an exciting 55-48 win over the Georgiana Lady Panthers, last week in the semifinals of the Straughn Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament.

Elba rallied from an early 8-2 deficit to grab a 9-8 lead on a 3-pointer by Nina Williams and was tied at 15-15 late in the opening stanza after a basket by Melissa Williams, but Georgiana scored late to carry an 18-15 lead into the second quarter.

The Lady Tigers trailed 24-20 with 4:37 remaining in the second quarter after baskets by Breanna Sanders and Freeda Hooks. However, Georgiana's Lexie Bess sparked a 7-0 Lady Panthers run over the next two minutes as the Lady Tigers saw the deficit grow to 31-20 with 2:09 left in the half.

Elba coach Shaun Hammonds called a time out to settle down his troops, and the time out worked as Freeda Hooks and Andrya Chism sparked a late 8-1 run that cut the Georgiana lead to 32-28 at intermission.

Elba's Jaylin Baker scored from in close with 4:32 left in the third quarter as the Lady Tigers pulled even at 34-34, but Georgiana regained the lead at 37-34 on a 3-pointer by Tenasia Gordon, and the Lady Tigers trailed until the closing seconds of the quarter when Breanna Sanders scored to pull Elba even at 41-41 heading into the final stanza.

Elba went on top for the first time since the first quarter early in the fourth quarter on a free throw by Freeda Hooks, only to see Georgiana retake the lead, and the Lady Panthers remained on top until a three point play by Hooks put the Lady Tigers back on top 48-46 with 3:18 left on the clock.

A driving lay up by Nina Williams capped a 7-0 Elba run that enabled the Lady Tigers to extend their lead to 55-46 with 40-seconds remaining in the game, and the Lady Tigers held on to open the season with the exciting 55-48 win.

Freeda Hooks scored 16 points to lead Elba, while Nina Williams added 12 and Breanna Sanders scored 11. Tenasia Gordon scored 15 points and Lexie Bess added 13 to lead the Lady Panthers.

Elba (55): Baker 7, Hooks 16, N. Williams 12, M. Williams 7, Sanders 11, Chism 2.

G'iana (48): Crenshaw 6, Haynes 6, Gordon 15, Marshall 4, Bess 13, McClain 3, Austin 1.



ELBA LADY TIGERS....with runner-up plaque after second place finish.

Lady Tigers fall in finals 43-32

The Elba Lady Tigers scored only three points over a 12-minute span in the first half to watch a 6-4 lead turn into a 24-9 deficit and never recovered in a disappointing 43-32 loss to Straughn, in the finals of the Straughn Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament.

Elba jumped out to an early 4-0 lead on baskets by Melissa Williams and Nina Williams and owned a 6-4 advantage with 4:14 left in the first quarter after another basket by Melissa

Williams. However, the Lady Tigers added only three free throws the remainder of the half and Straughn rode the hit hand of Allie Kelley to close the half with a 20-3 run that put Straughn on top 24-9 at intermission.

Straughn's lead grew to 26-9 early in the third quarter and it looked like the Lady Tigers were going to be run out of the gym, but the Elba came back to life on its end of the court and behind the scoring of Nina

Brantley places 3rd at Straughn

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs competed in the Straughn Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament last week and posted two wins in three games to place third in the seven-team event.

The Lady Bulldogs opened the tournament against Flomaton and used a big third quarter to post a hard fought 52-44 win. The Lady Bulldogs carried a slim 19-18 lead in at the half, but Gabby Perkins poured in 15 points in the third quarter to help the Lady Bulldogs open up a 35-27 advantage and the Lady Bulldogs never looked back as they held on to claim the 52-44 win. Gabby Perkins scored 34 points and ZyQuera Brockton added 7 to lead Brantley, while Lassiter scored 16 points to lead Flomaton.

The Lady Bulldogs fell behind 13-0 early and never recovered in a 38-35 loss to Straughn, in semifinal action. The early 13-0 run allowed Straughn to carry a 21-13 lead in at the half, but Gabby Perkins scored 8 points in the third quarter as Brantley began to battle

Williams and Freeda Hooks used an 8-1 spurt to cut the deficit to 27-19 with 4:13 left in the stanza.

Straughn survived the brief Elba rally to carry a 33-22 lead into the fourth quarter, and while the Lady Tigers did get within 33-25 early in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Undreya Chism, Straughn scored the game's next six points to open up a 39-25 lead with 4:55 left on the clock and coasted in with the 43-32 win.

Nina Williams scored 13 points to lead Elba, while Allie Kelley scored 18 points to lead Straughn.

Straughn (43): K. Kelley 8, Wilson 2, L. Hicks 2, Spears 2, T. Hicks 8, Montgomery 3, A. Kelley 18.

Elba (32): M. Williams 6, N. Williams 13, Hooks 5, Baker 5, Chism 3.

High School
BASKETBALL
SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 5

New Brockton at Elba
Kinston at Samson

Friday, Dec. 6

Kinston at Red Level
Pleasant Home at Zion Chapel

Monday, Dec. 9

Opp at Kinston
Houston Ac. at New Brockton
Zion Chapel, in Rehobeth Tournery
Brantley at Pleasant Home

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Kinston at Geneva
New Brockton at Samson
Zion Chapel, in Rehobeth Tournery
Brantley at Straughn

Thursday, Dec. 12

Elba at Geneva

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SPORTS NEWS

In eight-man football

Roland Bell leads Southern Prep to national title

By, Lizi Arbogast
Sports Editor
Alexander City Outlook

Matched up against the Freedom Cowboys, Southern Prep's football team, coached by Coffee County native Roland Bell, thought it might be in for a rough night Monday evening at the National High School Association of 8-Man Football's Division II National Championship in Panama City, Florida.

The Fighting Rangers had never defeated Freedom in their program history and were just coming off a tough loss against Evangel, 36-0, that dropped them down to the Division II bracket. But they stormed back and earned a 30-18 victory to win the title.

"We had never even come close to beating them," Southern Prep coach Roland Bell said. "But we gave our boys a speech about believing in ourselves and reminding them that we were invited for a reason."

"The NHSA 8-man national championship is by division only and Southern Prep came in ranked No. 14. But it started the tournament with a big win over Providence Home School out of Columbia, South Carolina, which had previously been beaten just once and was

ranked No. 5 going into the tournament. Evangel was the top seed and eventually went on to win the Division I tournament, so the Fighting Rangers just had to pep themselves back up after that loss.

They did just that and showed a fighting mentality.

Southern Prep led 8-6 for the most of the first half before Freedom came back and scored two touchdowns back-to-back to end the half and take the lead.

"We hit them really hard at halftime with the message of, 'Just believe,'" Bell said. "We had to go back to what we had told them to do and we came out in the third quarter and stopped them. Then we went all the way down the field and all of a sudden, it's 18-14. Two touchdowns later, we had Freedom all upset."

That was Southern Prep's game plan all along. Bell knew Freedom was going to run the ball a lot. He compared the Cowboys to the old Alabama teams.

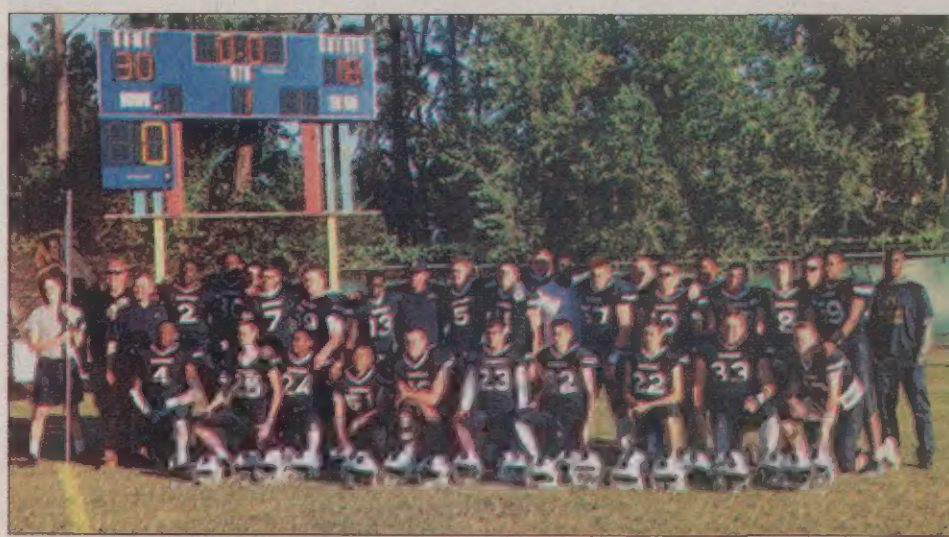
"They say, 'We're going to run it right at you and there's nothing you can do about it,'" Bell said. "But if you remember back in the day, if those Alabama teams ever got behind, they were in a little bit of trouble."

Knowing that, Southern Prep designed a defense to

shut down Freedom's run game and it put a ton of pressure on the Cowboys' quarterback. Tristen Ellis led the Ranger defense with seven tackles, including five sacks and Parker Slaughter also added five sacks. Yogi Barker, who was once again a force on both sides, racked up four solo tackles and two assists to go along with a forced fumble. Evan Cole had four tackles and Malachi Roberts followed right behind with three and added a forced fumble. Ny Dowdell picked off a pass and Talib Diallo and Braxton Cook each contributed a tackle.

"What we were doing with the defense against them, we were calling it chaos," Bell said. "Basically we were trying to box them in and close everything down so they were forced to run outside or pass the ball. We were going to make them get out of their comfort zone and that's when we could take over."

Offensively, Barker was the leader of the pack, rushing for 149 yards and a pair of touchdowns on just 11 carries. Quarterback Justin Wallace went 7 of 10 passing for 79 yards and a touchdown. Diallo led the receivers with six receptions for 32 yards; Dowdell's only catch was a 47-yard touch-



SOUTHERN PREP.... after winning national championship.

down. Southern Prep is graduating only five seniors and just three from the starting line. Although guys like Daniel Tampa, Diallo and Wallace will be tough to replace, Bell is hopeful the success this season as well as playing on such a big stage will help Southern Prep recruit even more players for next season. "We've had five or six others contact us and they're playing at their local schools," Bell said. "We haven't gone to them but they've come to us and said they want to play for us."

Geneva County / ESCC Basketball Classic:

Friday, Dec. 6

3 p.m. Geneva County vs. Wicksburg

4:30 p.m. Rehobeth vs. Pike County

6 p.m. Houston County vs. Elba

7:30 p.m. Straughn vs. Carroll

Carroll

Saturday, Dec. 7

10 a.m. Rehobeth vs. Wicksburg

11:30 a.m. Straughn vs. Enterprise

1 p.m. Carroll vs. Elba

2:30 p.m. Dothan vs. G.W. Long

G.W. Long

Monday, Dec. 9

4:30 p.m. Dothan vs. Carroll

6 p.m. G.W. Long vs. Enterprise

7:30 p.m. Geneva County vs. Elba

(All Games Friday and Saturday will be at Geneva County High School in Hartford. Monday Games will be at ESCC)



Coach Roland Bell (l) and former Lyman Ward coach J.D. Goodwin share memories and hold trophy. It took Coach Bell only two years as the head football coach at Southern Prep, formally Lyman Ward, to match Coach Goodwin's school record of 8 wins in a season.

Rebels compete at Ariton

The Zion Chapel Rebels competed in the Ariton Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament last week and struggled as they lost all three games in the eight-team event.

The Rebels tipped off tournament action against the Goshen Eagles and dropped a low scoring 44-22 decision to the Eagles. Brady Cobb scored 9 points and Billy Heap added 6 to lead the Rebels, while Makel Avery led the Eagles with 10 points and 8 rebounds.

The Rebels went up against Dale County in the second round and suffered a lopsided 60-26 loss. Connor Kelly scored 7 points and Brady Cobb added 6 to lead the Rebels, while Keshawn Martin led the Warriors with 19 points.

The Rebels met Ariton in the third round and dropped a 61-50 decision to the host Purple Cats. Brady Cobb scored 18 points and Billy Heap added 16 for the Rebels, while Hayes Floyd led the Purple Cats with 25 points.

Legislation introduced to protect and increase red snapper populations

U.S. Senator Doug Jones (D-Ala.) has introduced bipartisan legislation to improve the health of reef fish populations, such as red snapper, in the Gulf of Mexico. The legislation was cosponsored by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.).

Reef fish, such as red snapper, caught and rapidly brought to the surface from deep water can suffer from barotrauma, a condition that kills fish because they cannot readjust to deep water upon release. Venting tools and descending devices reduce barotrauma and save fish. The *Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices (DESCEND) Act* would require commercial and recreational fishermen to keep descending devices on-board their boats.

"I've been fishing all my life, so I know how important it is to protect Gulf species like red snapper. The use of descending devices and venting tools is one way we can help maintain healthy populations of reef fish, which is crucial for the economy of Alabama and for ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy red snapper season," Senator Jones said.

"For charter fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico, fishing is more than a pastime – it's our way of life. Charter fishermen such as myself have been using descending devices for some time, and we hope that this legislation will encourage the use of these devices among all sectors of the Gulf fishing community," said Johnny Greene, owner, Intimidator Charters in Orange Beach and former Gulf Council member.

"This legislation is greatly appreciated by recreational anglers in the Gulf of Mexico who understand first-hand the frustration associated with releasing a reef fish back into the water, only to watch as it fails to make it back to the bottom," said Blakeley Ellis, Executive Director, Coastal Conservation Association Alabama. "The act will ensure that fisheries managers have every tool at their disposal to help return these fish to depth and minimize post-release mortality."

"While Gulf of Mexico red snapper has historically

been a highly contentious policy issue, it's heartening to see such strong support for this effort to reduce mortality rates of discarded reef fish," said Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs, American Sportfishing Association. The more fish that survive, the healthier their populations will be in the future, therefore providing better fishing opportunities."

"The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources participated in a descender device pilot program a couple of years ago with the Ameri-

can Sportfishing Association. The program showed that the use of descender devices was very effective in decreasing release mortality of reef fish," said Chris Blankenship, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The legislation has been endorsed by the American Sportfishing Association, Center for Sportfishing Policy, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.



WHITFIELD AVERAGED 18 POINTS PER GAME ON SEASON FOR ELBA JUNIOR HIGH LADY TIGERS! The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers recently closed out their 2019 season, and 7th grader A'Lyric Whitfield was a leading scorer for the Lady Tigers. According to stats, Whitfield averaged 18 points per game on the season. In the photo above, the Lady Tigers were taking on Kinston, and Whitfield scored 20 points in that game. A'Lyric is the daughter of Nick and Angel Whitfield of Elba.

(photo submitted by Roberta Gideon)

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Scenes from Elba's 2019 Christmas Parade held Monday evening, Dec. 2nd



Grand Marshal - Nell Gilmer, chairperson for Elba's Alabama Bicentennial committee



Elba Rehabilitation and Nursing Home celebrates Alabama's Bicentennial



The Miss Elba Queens were all smiles for the Christmas Parade

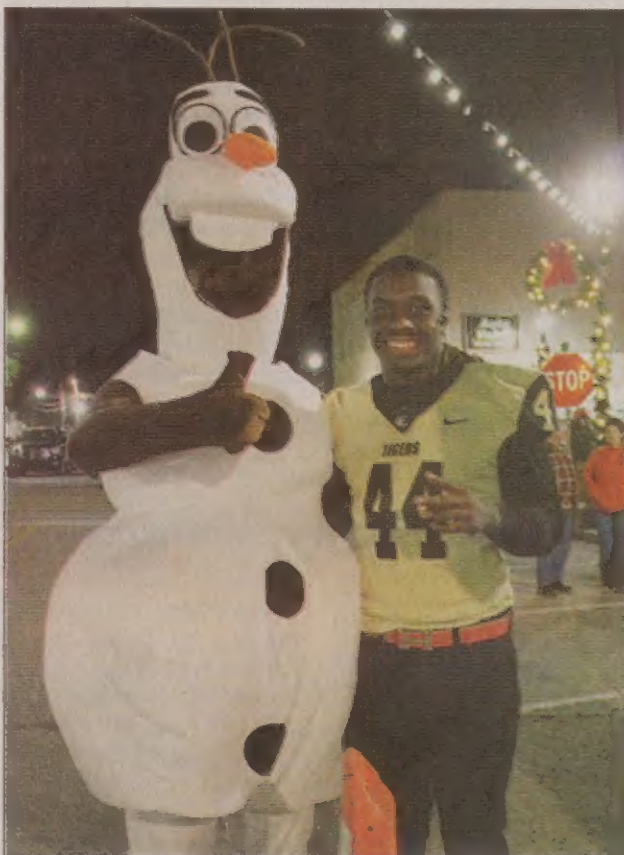


Photo to the Right: Olaf, from Disney's Frozen, gave a thumbs up to the Elba Christmas Parade alongside his new friend and Elba Tiger, Chrystyle Caldwell. Olaf enjoyed mingling with the crowd prior to the start of the parade.



Miss ESCC Caitlyn Nolin waves to the crowd as she goes by the grandstand.

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